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DE RUEHSG #0495 1471706
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 271706Z MAY 09
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4983
INFO RUEHAC/AMEMBASSY ASUNCION 3987
RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 2427
RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 1506
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 0920
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 2109
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA 6196
RUEHMN/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO 4417
RUEHQD/AMEMBASSY QUITO 2386
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC
RUCPDOC/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC

UNCLAS SANTIAGO 000495

SIPDIS

STATE FOR R/MR, I/PP, WHA/BSC, WHA/PDA, INR/IAA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: KMDR KPAO PGOV ECON PREL SNAR EFIN CI

SUBJECT: CHILE MEDIA REPORT -- MAY 27

Leading Stories

¶1. Health Authorities have confirmed 119 cases of AH1N1 nationwide, which ranks Chile number seven worldwide for the number of confirmations. Dailies also report the confession of a now-retired soldier who witnessed the assassination of singer Victor Jara in 1973 and who revealed the name of a lieutenant wanted for the torture and murder of a large number of political prisoners.

U.S.-Related News

¶2. President Bachelet's believes Cuba should rejoin the OAS. She recently stated her position: "Now that the Cold War is over, the priority should be to include nations, rather than exclude them" from the hemispheric community. OAS Secretary General Jose Miguel Insulza has the same position. But U.S. diplomacy -- Secretary Hillary Clinton and her second in command, James Steinberg -- differs, arguing that the reasons that earned Cuba its expulsion from the organization in 1962 still hold. These days Washington is trying to stop the June OAS General Assembly from eliminating the resolution that banned Cuba from the organization, and if Insulza and Bachelet don't change their position, they will come in direct confrontation with Washington, which could turn into the first direct friction between the White House and La Moneda (La Nacion, government-owned, editorially independent, circ. 4,200, 5/27).

Dutch F16s

¶3. After her meeting with Dutch Prime Minister, President Bachelet was informed that Holland confirmed the sale of 18 F16s to Chile. The news caught Bachelet by surprise. "This is not an issue we discussed with the government," she said. In a lunch, the Chairman of Holland's Senate Foreign Relations and Defense Committee, de Graaf, confirmed the announcement and said the deal "was sealed." He added that NATO approved the operation -- not the U.S. Congress. GOC spokesperson Carolina Toha was more cautious and said the process for the acquisition of the F16s was "in progress" (La Tercera, conservative, independent, circ. 101,000, 5/27).
SIMONS